

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-123 (Cancelled)

124. (New) A hybridoma obtained by a method comprising the steps of:

i) providing mouse liver cells capable of producing IGIF or IL-18 consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein Xaa is Met or Thr;

ii) identifying a DNA encoding said IGIF or said IL-18 from said mouse liver cells provided in step i);

iii) preparing said IGIF or said IL-18 by recombinant DNA technique using said DNA identified in step ii);

iv) immunizing a rat with said IGIF or said IL-18 obtained in step iii);

v) extracting spleen cells from said rat;

vi) fusing said spleen cells obtained in step v) with SP2/0-Ag14 cells (ATCC CRL 1581); and

vii) selecting a hybridoma capable of producing a monoclonal antibody which binds to said IGIF or said IL-18.

125. (New) A method for producing a monoclonal antibody which binds to IGIF or IL-18 consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein Xaa is Met or Thr, said method comprising the steps of culturing the hybridoma of claim 124 in a nutrient culture medium *in vitro* to produce said monoclonal antibody in the culture, and collecting said monoclonal antibody from the culture.

126. (New) A system for detecting IGIF or IL-18, comprising: i) a matrix or substrate on which a monoclonal antibody that binds to IGIF or IL-18 consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2, wherein Xaa is Met or Thr, is immobilized, said monoclonal antibody being obtained by the method of claim 125; and ii) a monoclonal antibody, which binds to said IGIF or said IL-18, being obtained by the method of claim 125 and being labeled with a radiolabel, an enzyme, or a fluorophore.